

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on May 10, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 10, and 18 are amended, claims 5 and 13 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-21 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hanson (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,242). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant does not admit that Hanson anticipates the originally presented claims 1, 10 and 18. Nonetheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 10 to recite, “a threshold loader circuitry configured to load the threshold memory with the matrix such that the resolution of the loaded matrix matches the resolution of the raster data.” The Examiner has indicated that this language includes allowable subject matter in connection with dependent claims 5 and 13, respectively.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection based on Hanson for independent claims 1 and 10, as well as for those claims that depend therefrom.

Independent claim 18, as amended, recites, “loading the threshold matrix with threshold values such that the resolution of the loaded matrix matches the resolution of the raster data”. For reasons similar to those presented in connection with claims 1 and 10, Applicant believes claim 18, as amended, includes allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection of independent claim 18, as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,242) in view of Hubina (U.S. Patent No. 6,876,384).

Applicant respectfully wishes to call the Examiner's attention to the Hubina reference being cited neither in the Applicant's IDS nor in Form PTO-892 (Notice of References Cited).

For the reasons provided above, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1 and 10, as amended and from which claims 9 and 17 depend, are not described, taught, or suggested in the Hanson reference. From the Applicant's review of the Hubina reference, the Applicant did not find any description, teaching, or suggestion for the elements and limitations included in independent claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claims 9 and 17.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5-7, 12-15, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the above claims were found to include allowable subject matter. Applicant has included language from dependent claims 5 and 13 in the respective independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, which Applicant now believes to be in condition for allowance. Similarly, Applicant has included similar language into independent claim 18, which Applicant now believes also to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Greg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 9th day of August, 2005.

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8/9/2005